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EARLY DAYS AT FORT SNELLING.

Previous to the organization of the Territory of Minnesota, in 1849, Fort Snelling was the only place of note beyond Prairie du Chien. For years it had been the point at which the missionary of the Cross, the man of science, the adventurous trader, made preparations for their journeys among the villages of the wandering Dakotas.

Beautifully located on an elevated bluff, at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi, its massive walls make a strong impression on the mind of the traveler. Within its enclosure have been quartered some of the most efficient officers of the United States Army, who have received with hospitality the various scientific expeditions that have from time to time passed through the country.

Its history and associations are full of interest and worthy of record in the Annals of Minnesota. On the island in front of the Fort, PIKE encamped, and entered into negotiations for the site of the present Fort, as the extracts from his journal, published in a previous chapter show.

In 1817, Major LONG, in a report to the War Department, recommended the site for a permanent Fort. In 1819, three hundred men of the Sixth regiment, under the command of Colonel LEAVENWORTH, left Detroit, for the purpose of commanding the Fort. They came by the way of Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. At this point a detachment was left, and the remainder ascended the Mississippi. On the 17th of September, they established a cantonment, on the South side of the Minnesota, at the present ferry.

In the "Pioneer Women of the West," a book written by Mrs. ELLETT, and published in 1852, life at the cantonment is described in the sketch of Mrs. CLARK, the wife of the first Commissary of the Fort. It appears that Mrs. CLARK accompanied her husband, the Commissary,* on his journey up the Mississippi, to the mouth of the Minnesota in Nov. 1819. It is stated that:

"Several persons went with them from Prairie du Chien; the voyage being made in keel boats, and the waters so low that the men were obliged frequently to wade in the river and draw them through the sand. Six weeks were occupied in passing over the distance of three hundred miles, one week of which was spent at Lake Pepin.

"Having reached the place of destination, the company were obliged to live in their boats till pickets could be erected for their protection against the Indians. "Huts had also to be built, though in the rudest manner, to serve as a shelter during the winter, from the rigors of a severe climate. After living with her family in the boat for a month, it was a highly appreciated luxury for Mrs. CLARK to find herself at home in a log hut, plastered with clay, and chinked for her reception. It was December before they got into their winter quarters, and the fierce winds

*[Maj. NATHAN CLARK was born in May, 1789, near Worcester, Mass. He entered the service as Second Lieut. in the 37th infantry, in 1812; was one of the officers retained in service when the army was reduced at the close of the war, and assigned to the 5th infantry. In 1816, he married Miss CHARLOTTE ANN SEYMOUR, of Hartford, Conn., the estimable lady mentioned in these sketches. In 1819 he was ordered to proceed with his regiment to St. Peters. During the march from Detroit to St. Peters, while at Prairie du Chien, a daughter was born, now Mrs. CHARLOTTE O. VAN CLEVE, of St. Anthony, Minn. The family lived at Fort Snelling nearly eight years. In 1827, Maj. CLARK was ordered to Fort Crawford, and subsequently to other posts; finally to Fort Winnebago, Wis., where he died, February 18, 1836. Mrs. CLARK still survives, and her memory of events of half a century ago at Fort Snelling is vivid and unimpaired; while her daughter, Mrs. VAN CLEVE, has contributed valuable reminiscences of those events to the 3rd volume of the Collections of this Society; page 66 and 103. W.]

of that exposed region, with terrific storms now and then, were enough to make them keep within doors as much as possible. Once in a violent tempest, the roof of their dwelling was raised by the wind, and partially slid off; there was no protection for the inmates, but the baby in the cradle was pushed under the bed for safety. Notwithstanding these discomforts and perils, the inconveniences they had to encounter, and their isolated situation, the little party of emigrants were not without the social enjoyments; they were nearly all young married persons, cheerful, and fond of gaiety, and had their dancing assemblages once a fortnight. An instance of the kindness of the Commanding officer, Col. LEAVENWORTH, deserves mention. One of the officers having been attacked with symptoms of scurvy, and great alarm prevailing on that account, the Colonel took a sleigh, and accompanied by a few friends, set off on a journey through the country inhabited by Indians, not knowing what dangers he might encounter from their hostility, or the perils of the way, for the purpose of procuring medicinal roots. The party was absent several days, and in the meantime collected a supply of hemlock and spignet, (spikenard,) which they used with excellent effect in curing the disease.

"In the ensuing summer (of 1820), when Col. SNELLING had the command, Fort Snelling was begun. St. Louis, distant nine hundred miles, was at that time the nearest town of any importance. After the erection of the Fort, Mrs. CLARK says :—'We made the first clearing at the Falls of St. Anthony, and built a grist mill.' The wife of Capt. GEORGE GOODING, of the 5th regiment, was the *first white woman* who ever visited those beautiful Falls. She afterwards married Col. JOHNSON, and went to reside at St. Louis.

"The daughter of Mrs. CLARK, now Mrs. VAN CLEVE,* was born while the troops were stationed at Prairie du Chien. At that time Col. LEAVENWORTH received orders to go up to the place where, in the following summer, Fort Snelling was built. He went, though he had at this time no wholesome provisions; even the bread, it was said, 'was two inches in the barrels thick with mold;' no vegetables were to be had, and several of the men were perishing with scurvy. No game could be bought from the Indians. The prices of such fresh edibles as could be procured at Prairie du Chien were enormous. A small and lean chicken procured for a sick lady, cost a dollar; beets as large as the finger $1 a dozen; and onions were ten dollars a bushel.

"Mrs. CLARK remained at Fort Snelling, with the exception of about a year, until 1827. The only young lady in the company was married when about fifteen years of age, to a Mr. DENNIS, also of the army. The wedding took place in the winter, and the bridal party was obliged to descend the river three hundred miles on the ice, to Prairie du Chien, to have the ceremony performed. The monotony of their life was varied by continual alarms and excitements, from the encounters of the hostile tribes of Sioux and Chippewas, who came frequently into their close neighborhood, and were not scrupulous as to deeds of violence and treachery towards each other."

In the spring of this year, the troops were moved from the south side of the Minnesota to a spot near the present St. Louis Hotel, which was designated as "Camp Coldwater."

In July, 1820, Gen. CASS and Mr. SCHOOLCRAFT, on their way from Lake Superior and the upper Mississippi to Prairie du Chien, visited the post. They were pleased with the fertility of the soil, and learned that green peas had

*[At present residing at St. Anthony, Minn.]

been raised and eaten by the fifteenth of June. Two block-houses, on the site of the present Fort, were erected about this time.

During the summer, LEAVENWORTH was relieved, and Col. SNELLING assumed the command. By order from Washington, he demanded of the Sisseton Dakotas the murderers of certain whites, on the Missouri.

One day in November, contrary to his expectation, one of the murderers and an old chief, a substitute for his son, were voluntarily brought to the encampment. The delivery was accompanied with much ceremony. A procession was formed at some distance from the garrison, and marched to the centre of the parade. It was preceded by a Sissetoan, bearing the British flag. The murderer and the chief, who offered himself as an atonement for his son, followed with their arms pinioned, and large splinters of wood thrust through them above the elbows, to indicate, as it was thought, their contempt of pain and death. The relatives and friends followed, and on their way joined them in the death dirge. When they arrived in front of the guard, the British flag was laid on a fire, prepared for the occasion and consumed. The murderer then gave up his medal, and both of the prisoners were surrendered.

The Indian Agent,* in a communication to the Department, on Nov. 10, 1820, says; "The old chief I have

*[Maj. LAWRENCE TALIAFERRO, Indian Agent at Fort Snelling from 1819 to 1840, was born in Whitehall, Kings County, Virginia, February 28, 1794. He was descended from an Italian family who lived at Genoa, and came to Virginia in 1637. TALIAFERRO enlisted in the army in 1812, when only 18 years of age and served with credit, being promoted to a lieutenancy. At the close of the war he was retained with rank of 1st Lieut. in the 3rd Regiment. In 1819 he resigned and was commissioned by President Monroe as Indian Agent at "St. Peters, near the Falls of St. Anthony." He at once, repaired to his post, where he served a period of almost twenty-one years, being re-appointed five times by various presidents, and resigning at last. A sketch in the St. Paul *Pioneer* says of him: "His was a long incumbency for such an office as that, and showed that Maj. T. was active and faithful in the discharge of his duties, and such he certainly was. While in a position which many have used for their own

detained as a hostage; the murderer I have sent to St. Louis for trial, presuming that it is a course you will approve. I am much indebted to Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL, the interpreter, for his great exertions in bringing this affair to a happy issue. The delivery of the murderer is to be attributed solely to his influence over the Sussitongs."

From the wife of Colonel SNELLING, Mrs. ELLETT obtained some facts illustrative of this period, which are published in the "Pioneer Women of the West."

"In the following summer of 1820, SNELLING * was promoted Colonel of the 5th Regiment, and ordered up the

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aggrandizement, Maj. T. was scrupulously honest. No charge was ever made against him of malversation in office for his own benefit. He labored to impress the tribes under his supervision with a proper respect for the government, and by gratifying their penchant for 'big talks' and ceremonies, kept them in pretty good order and obedience. He was sometimes ridiculed for his egotism, of which he certainly had a good share; but he was careful, correct and methodical in his business matters. With the traders and agents he generally managed to keep up a standing quarrel, however, and his official correspondence with the Department was ponderous, but often related to trivial affairs. During his twenty years incumbency he maintained a wide correspondence with many eminent men in official and military life in the West. Their letters, hundreds in number, he afterwards gave to the Minnesota Historical Society with a quantity of other valuable manuscripts." After his retirement from the Indian Agency he was not in service again until 1857 when he was appointed Military Storekeeper at Bedford, Pa., and retired on half pay in 1863. He died of paralysis on January 22, 1871, aged 78 years. A half breed daughter, the widow of WARREN WOODBURY, resides in West St. Paul. W.]

*[Col. JOSIAH SNELLING was born at Boston, Mass., in 1782. He was commissioned First Lieutenant in the Fourth Infantry in 1808, Regimental Paymaster in April, 1809, and promoted to a Captaincy in June, 1809; breveted Major for gallantry at Brownstown in August, 1812. In April, 1813 he was appointed assistant Inspector General, and in Feb. 1818, commissioned Lieut. Col. of the Fourth Rifles. He served with honor at the battles of Tippecanoe, Maguaga, and Lyons Creek, and other engagements in the war of 1812, and at its close was retained as Lieut. Col. of the Sixth Infantry, being promoted to the Colonelcy of the 5th Infantry, in 1819. In August, 1820, Col. SNELLING took command of the post "Fort St. Anthony," and commenced to erect the present permanent buildings, which were completed in the fall of 1822. In 1824, at Gen. SCOTT'S recommendation, the Fort was named after its builder. Col. SNELLING'S administration of affairs, during the seven years of his command, was marked with ability, prudence and bravery. In 1827 the 5th Regt. was ordered to St. Louis. Col. S. proceeded to Washington on official business. While there he was seized with sudden disease, and died on Aug. 28, aged 45 years. The widow of COL. SNELLING now resides with a married daughter near Cincinnati, O. W.]

Mississippi, to relieve Lieut. Colonel LEAVENWORTH, who was also promoted to another Regiment. He had conducted the 5th Regiment from Detroit to within eight miles of the Falls of St. Anthony. The journey was exceedingly tedious and disagreeable, in a keel boat laboriously propelled by men with long poles placed against their shoulders, along a gangway on each side of the boat. The weather was very warm, and mosquitoes numerous day and night. The cabin was very low, confined and uncomfortable. It was three weeks or more before they arrived at Prairie du Chien, during which time very little sound sleep was obtained by the young mother, from fear of the Indians, the Sac and Fox, the most savage looking and ferocious she had ever seen. They seemed to be very fond of dress, and their faces were painted of all colors; the hair cut close to within an inch of the top of the head, and that decorated with a variety of ribbons and feathers, and often a small looking-glass suspended from the neck. Many of them were certainly great beaux, but they looked hideous, and were terrific objects to a timid woman.

"When the voyaguers arrived at Prairie du Chien, they found Gov. CASS and his party; he held councils with the Indians for the purpose of bringing about a peace between the Sac and Fox tribes, Chippewas and Sioux. Our friends were detained there several weeks by a court-martial, of which Col. SNELLING was President. They had still three hundred miles to go before they reached the encampment of the 5th Regiment, and there were several Indian villages on the route. The magnificent scenery of this river has been often described. Lake Pepin is a beautiful expansion about twenty-four miles in length, and from two to four broad. At length they arrived safe through many fatigues to the end of their journey, and received a hearty welcome from friends they had never seen before, and from Capt.

Gooding and his wife, whom they were again delighted to meet. Their daughter had been married a few days previous to the Adjutant of the regiment.

"Great solicitude was felt to have a temporary garrison erected with such defences as could be then made, before the long and severe winter set in. The traders brought news that the Indians were very insolent, and it was said a white man had been killed on the St. Peter's river. A council was called and the murderers were demanded, hostages being taken from the council until they were delivered. They were confined in the guard room, and narrowly watched. All felt that the little community was exposed and almost at the mercy of an enemy, and great exertions were made to complete the temporary barracks for the winter, with block houses and other defences. Indians meanwhile were collecting in great numbers, and would sometimes show themselves at a distance. The traders in the vicinity often came in, and said the friendly Indians had gone in pursuit of the murderers and no doubt would succeed in taking them; but if they did not, the friends of the hostages would attempt to rescue them. Scouts were accordingly kept out every night, and the troops slept on their arms. For the mother—trembling for her little ones more than herself, no sooner would she close her eyes at night, than she would start, thinking she heard the war whoop of the savages. The wolves too, half-starved, were extremely daring, and if the cook happened to leave a bucket of swill at the back door, they were sure to empty it of its contents.

"As soon as the log barracks were finished, the families moved into them. They were built in four rows, forming a square, a block-house on either side. The Indian hostages were now put in great security. They

were evidently becoming impatient of restraint, and perhaps had doubts as to the result. One morning, as usual, they were taken a short distance into the woods under guard, when suddenly one of them (there were three) started and ran for his life. Those behind set up a yell and the guard fired at him, but he was beyond reach. The others were immediately taken back to the guard house, and an interpreter sent for, who enquired of them if it was a preconcerted plan of the whole; they declared it was not, and that until the fugitive started to run, they were ignorant of his design, and supposed it merely a sudden desire for freedom. They said further, that he would no doubt urge the immediate surrender of the guilty parties, and laughingly said the lad was so fat, from being so well fed, they were surprised to see him run so fast!

"Col. SNELLING and the Indian agent thought it advisable to send the murderers to the agent at St. Louis, as soon as they should be brought in, and before navigation closed. At length they came, conducted by a large number of their own tribe. There were two, but only one was sent to St. Louis, as there was but one white man killed. It was represented to the Indians in council, that when one white man killed another, his life paid the penalty; and since one of their people had killed a white man his life must pay the forfeit, unless their great father in Washington should pardon him. The savages signified assent by a "ugh!" As soon as the criminal was gone, quiet was restored among the Indians for the winter.

"In September Mrs. SNELLING'S fifth child was born. Her sick room was papered, and carpeted with buffalo robes, and made quite warm and comfortable. There were three ladies beside her in the garrison, and they were like one family, spending their time instructing their children, and receiving instruction in the French language from a soldier,

who, it was said, had been an officer in BONAPARTE'S army. Mrs. SNELLING, Mrs. CLARK and an officer, comprised the class. During the winter, parties of men were sent off to cut down trees, hew timber, &c., for the permanent fort, which was to be built on the high point of land between the mouth of the St Peter's and Mississippi, a point selected by Gen. PIKE, when he explored the river, as a good site for a fort, and on which Col. SNELLING at once decided it should be built. There was a tree standing at the extreme point, with the name of PIKE carved on it by his own hand. Strict orders were given "to spare that tree," for it was looked upon by the officers as sacred to his memory and was carefully guarded, but the care was in vain. One morning it was found cut down, and great was the lamentation. It never was known who had done the deed; there was a mystery about it that was never solved.

"The first row of barracks that were put up, were of hewn logs, the others of stone. The fort was built in a diamond shape, to suit the ground at the extreme point. Where the tree had stood, was a half-moon battery, and inside this was the officers' quarters, a very neat stone building, the front of cut stone; at the opposite point a tower. The fort was enclosed by a high stone wall, and is well represented in the drawings of it.

"At the expiration of two years, the Regiment moved into the fort, although not completed. The families of the officers occupied quarters in the row assigned to them. It was just before this time that Mrs. SNELLING lost her youngest child—thirteen months old.*

"In June, 1823, the first steamboat made its appearance at the fort† much to the astonishment of the savages, who

* The grave stone that marks its earthly remains is still in existence in the graveyard at the Fort.

†[A very interesting sketch of this incident is given in Vol. 3d of the Minn. Historical Collections, page 103, by Mrs. VAN CLEVE, who, with her mother Mrs. CLARK, are probably the only white persons living who witnessed it. W.]

placed their hands over their mouths—their usual way of expressing astonishment, and called it a "fire-boat." A salute was fired from the Fort, as it was expected that the Inspector General was on board; and it was returned from the boat. The Indians knew not what to make of it, and they were greatly alarmed, until all was explained. Additions were made to the society of the garrison; several officers, who had been absent, returned to their regiment, bringing wives and sisters, so that at one time the company numbered ten ladies. There were six companies, which fully officered, would have given eighteen or twenty officers, but there were seldom or never that number present at one time.

"An Italian gentleman came on the boat, who professed to be traveling for the purpose of writing a book, and brought letters of introduction from Mrs. SNELLING'S friends in St. Louis. The Colonel invited him to his house to remain as long as he pleased and he was with them several months. He could not speak English, but spoke French fluently, and seemed much pleased when he found his fair hostess could speak the language, she having learned it when a child at St. Louis. A French school was the first she ever attended, and she thus early acquired a perfectly correct pronunciation. She lamented on one occasion to Mr. BELTRAMI, that her teacher had received his discharge, and was about leaving, and he politely offered his services in that capacity. She was then translating the life of Cæsar in an abridged form, and from the emotion betrayed by the foreigner at a portion of the reading, it was concluded he had been banished from the Pope's dominions at Rome, and that the lesson reminded him of his misfortunes. The passport he showed, gave him the title of "Le Chevalier Count BELTRAMI.

"About this time, Major LONG'S expedition arrived to explore the St. Peter's River, and when they left, BELTRAMI

accompanied them. When his book was published at New Orleans, he sent Mrs. SNELLING a copy. When at the fort he was busy in collecting Indian curiosities. One day he brought a Sioux chief into Mrs. SNELLING's room, who had on his neck a necklace of bear's claws highly polished, saying, 'I cannot tempt this chief to part with his necklace; pray see what you can do with him; he will not refuse you.' 'He wears it,' answered the lady, 'as a trophy of hi powers, and a badge of honor; however, I will try.' After some time, WANATA* said, 'On one condition I will consent: if you will cut off your hair, braid it, and let it take the place of mine, you may have the necklace.' All laughed heartily at the contrivance to get rid of further importunity.

"One day a call was heard from a sentinel on the river bank, to the corporal of the guard, that a child had fallen into the river, and several ran in the direction the sentinel pointed. The gardener, who was at work a short distance, cried out, "It is the Colonel's son, HENRY! Save him!" His mother heard the cry, "A child is drowning!" and ran out upon the battery to see and hear what was the matter. She saw them draw the boy out, place him on a blanket, and hasten up the hill; they approached her house, when the Colonel hastened towards her saying, "we came near losing our child!" and she saw it was indeed her own. He was pale as death, but soon recovered, and lives to tell the story of an immense catfish dragging him into the river while fishing.

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*[WANATA, or WANOTAN, "The Charger," was the most distinguished chief of the Yankton Tribe of Dakotas. He was born about 1795, and at an early age acquired great renown as a warrior. He fought the Americans in the war of 1812, and was wounded. KEATING, in his narrative of Maj. LONG'S expedition, met WANATA in 1823, and gives a long account of him, and a copper-plate portrait, in which he wears probably the same necklace of bear's claws as is mentioned by Mrs. ELLETT. In MCKENNEY & HALL'S splendid work on the North American Indians, published in 1837, a portrait and sketch of WANATA is also given. The chief died a few years subsequent to that date. W.]

"In 1823, news was brought by the traders that two white children were with a party of Sioux, on the St. Peter's. It appeared from what they could learn, that a family from Red River—Selkirk's settlement—had been on their way to the fort, when a war party of Sioux met them, murdered the parents and an infant, and made the boys prisoners. Col. SNELLING sent an officer with a party of soldiers to rescue the children. After some delay in the ransom, they were finally brought. An old squaw, who had the youngest, was very unwilling to give him up, and indeed the child did not wish to leave her. The oldest, about eight years old, said his name was JOHN TULLY, and his brother, five years old, ABRAHAM. His mother had an infant, but he saw the Indians dash its brains out against a tree, then killed his father and mother. Because he cried they took him by his hair, and cut a small piece from his head, which was a running sore when he was re-taken. Col. SNELLING took JOHN into his family, Major CLARK the other, but he was afterwards sent to an orphan asylum in New York. The eldest died of lockjaw, occasioned by a cut in the ankle while using an axe.

"During this year, the commandant was visited by Gen SCOTT and suit, and the fort was completed. Heretofore it had been called Fort St. Anthony, but Gen. SCOTT issued an order giving it the name of Fort Snelling. He expressed his approbation of the construction and site of the fort, etc., spent a week with his friends, and visited the Falls and a chain of lakes where they were used to amuse themselves fishing, and where the water was so clear they could see the fish playing about the hook. One of the lakes Mrs. SNELLING named Scott Lake.

"Another of her amusements was riding on horse back. When a child she had been accustomed to ride every morning with her father, and acquired great confidence in the

management of a horse. Her husband seldom would ride with her, but Captain MARTIN SCOTT* was in the regiment, and often accompanied her. One day they saw a wolf, the dogs gave chase, and they followed until they ran down the poor creature, the bonnet of the fair huntress having fallen back, and her streaming loose in the wind.

"In 1825, the family left Fort Snelling to visit their friends in Detroit. It was late in the season, October, before they set out homeward, by the way of Green Bay, where Mrs. SNELLING'S brother, Lieut. WELLINGTON HUNT, was stationed. They spent a week in his family, and when they reached Lake Pepin, the ice was running so rapidly they were compelled to stop; the ice had cut through the cabin so that it leaked. A small log cabin was put up, and an express sent to the Fort, one hundred miles, for sleighs to convey them thither, and provisions, as they had nothing but corn, which they boiled in ash water with a little salt. Fears were entertained by Col. SNELLING that the express might not reach the Fort, and another was sent a week after. One day, after two weeks, there was a sound of sleigh bells, and HENRY, who was the first to hear, ran to meet them, and soon returned with two loaves of bread, which he threw into his mother's lap, crying, "eat, mother, eat." The children ate bread as if famished, and even the little MARION, but eight months old, partook of the general joy. They had seen no Indians, who had gone to their winter grounds. Some of the officers came to meet the

*[CAPTAIN MARTIN SCOTT was born in Bennington, Vt., June 17, 1788. He served in the war of 1812, and in 1814 was commissioned 2d Lieut. in the 26th Rifles. At the close of the war he was commissioned in the Regular Army and in 1821 was made a Captain in the Fifth Regiment. He was a man of great daring and personal bravery, but of limited education. His principal reputation, perhaps, was that of a hunter and marksman, which gave rise to the story of "Capt. SCOTT'S coon." The stories of his skill and prowess as a sportsman are almost incredible. He was widely known to the early settlers throughout what is now Wisconsin and Minnesota, having served at various frontier posts. He fell at the battle of Palo Alto, Sept. 8, 1847, at which time he held the rank of Lt. Col. of the 5th Regt. W.]

Colonel's family, and they were soon on the move again. They were welcomed back joyfully by all their friends, and many of their favorite Indians came to see them. One poor savage, who always furnished them with game, came leaning on his staff, looking pale and emaciated; he was very sick, he said, and came to see them once more before he died. He could scarcely crawl back to his lodge, and the next day he expired.

"At this time, a party of the Chippewas and Sioux held a council with the Indian agent. There had been war between the two nations for a long time; the agent desired to act as mediator between them, and sent for them to meet him. After the council, the two parties smoked the pipe of peace. The Chippewas killed a dog, made a feast, and invited the Sioux to their lodges, which were under the guns of the Fort. In the evening, about nine o'clock, the firing of guns was heard; the sentinel called "corporal of the guard," repeatedly, in quick succession. The wild cries of women and children were heard, for the Chippewas had their families with them, and several Indians came rushing into the hall of the commanding officer, trying to tell what was the matter. The officer of the day reported that the Sioux, after partaking of the hospitalities of the Chippewas, and being apparently goods friends, had some of them returned, placed their guns under the wigwams, and fired, killing some and wounding others. The wounded were conveyed into the hospital to have their wounds dressed. Other particulars of this occurrence, with the determination of the Chippewas to have vengeance, the action of the commanding officer, and the surrender and punishment of the perpetrators of the deed, are related in another article. The traders said the Sioux were perfectly satisfied, much more so than if the offenders had been imprisoned and sent to St. Louis.

"In 1826, Capt. THOMAS HUNT, who was residing at Washington, wrote to his sister, urging her and the Colonel to send their two eldest children to him to be educated. Their daughter MARY was now fourteen, and as Captain PLYMPTON* and his wife were going, her parents got her in readiness to accompany them. Her mother thought not it would cost so many tears to part with her child; but when she returned home from the boat she told Mrs. CLARK 'it seemed like a death in the family.' Soon an opportunity offered, and they sent HENRY also.

"In 1827, the Indians began to show signs of hostility near Prairie du Chien; they murdered two white men and a young girl, the daughter of one of them, and attacked two boats with supplies for Fort Snelling, killing and wounding several of the crew. Col. SNELLING ordered out as many of his command as could be spared from the Fort, and with his officers descended the river to the relief of Fort Crawford, or to attack any hostile force of Indians he might meet. There were two large villages of Indians between the two Forts, and it was expected, when they approached, they would be attacked, but there was not an Indian to be seen. When they reached Prairie du Chien, they ascertained that the outrage had been committed by Winnebagoes and not Sioux. When Gen. ATKINSON heard this at St. Louis, he sent and seized the Chief, RED BIRD, and one or two others, who were tried, convicted and executed. After an absence of six weeks, the party returned without being obliged to fire a gun.

*[Col. JOSEPH PLYMPTON was born at Sudbury, Mass., Feb. 24, 1787. He entered the army in 1812 as a Lieutenant, served through the whole war with credit, and at its close was retained in the service. He was commissioned as Captain in the 5th Infantry in 1821, and served most of the time in the Northwest until 1840, when he was ordered to Florida, and took a conspicuous part in the Seminole war. In 1846, he was commissioned Lt. Col. of the 7th Regulars, and commanded it through most of the Mexican war. He was breveted Col. for gallantry at Cerro Gordo, &c. After the war he remained in command of his Regiment until 1854, when he returned North on account of feeble health, and died at Stapleton, N. Y., June 5th, 1860. W.]

"In the fall of 1827, the Regiment was ordered to Jefferson Barracks. When the family arrived at St. Louis, they took lodgings for the winter, Col. SNELLING having obtained leave to go to Washington to settle some public accounts and to bring home his daughter. He wrote to her mother in glowing terms of her improvement in person and mind, and that she received much attention for one of her age, not yet sixteen. 'As MARY will not again,' he concluded, 'have so good an opportunity, I have encouraged her to accept invitations to the different soirees; she has had cards for the season from all.' MARY wrote, 'I have attended many parties, but I do not enjoy them, for my dear mother is not with me, and I am so impatient to embrace her.' Alas! the All Wise Disposer of events had ordered it otherwise. One more letter her mother received from her, and hoped before many weeks to see her, but at the time she was expecting her arrival, a letter was written to her sister, Mrs. SOULARD, that MARY was dead!

"Col. SNELLING wrote afterwards, that on the 2nd of February she had been at Mrs. CLAY'S party and danced, and had taken cold while standing to wait for the carriage; the cold terminated in a brain fever. Mrs. ADAMS, the wife of the President, showed great interest in the young stranger, as did many others, and every attention was paid her that could be desired; but there was no solace for the deep wound in the mother's heart. Her husband wrote that he should be obliged to remain still longer in Washington; it would improve her health to travel, and she must join him without delay. In May, she left St. Louis with her three children and nurse, found her husband and son well, the latter much grown, and received a cordial welcome from her brother and sister-in-law.

"Her cup of affliction was not yet full; in two months her

husband was seized with inflammation of the brain and died in three weeks. In communicating the sad event to the army, the General-in-Chief thought it but an act of justice to make a public acknowledgment of his services."

ECCLESIASTICAL REMINISCENCES OF FORT SNELLING — FIRST CHURCH IN MINNESOTA.

Before any clergyman entered Minnesota, a Major in the Army, with an experience and zeal in some respects akin to that of the distinguished British officer, Colonel GARDINER, was ordered to Fort Snelling. Though a rigid disciplinarian, he at times invited soldiers and officers to his quarters, and read sermons and essays from a paper called the New York Evangelist, in their presence.

In May, 1835, the Rev. T. S. WILLIAMSON, M. D., arrived at the Fort with assistants, for the purpose of commencing the first Missionary operations among the Dakotas. At the request of those at the garrison, and in the vicinity, a church was formed.*

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* Among the original members, was a young Lieutenant, who was one of the first to prepare a vocabulary of the Dakota language. His decease has lately occurred,[1856] and from a New York paper we extract the following :

Major EDMUND A. OGDEN, of the United States Army, who recently died of cholera at Fort Riley, Kansas Territory, was born at Catskill, N. Y., Feb. 20th, 1810. Soon after, he removed to Unadilla, N. Y., where he remained until he entered the United States Military Academy. On graduating, he was attached as Brevet Second Lieut. to the First Regiment of Infantry, then stationed at Prairie du Chien. He was subsequently appointed a First Lieutenant in the Eighth Infantry, where he served until appointed a Captain in the Quartermaster's Department, in which corps he remained until his death. He served with credit and distinction through the Black Hawk, Florida, and Mexican wars, and was created a Major by brevet, for meritorious conduct, in the last named of these wars.

His services ever faithfully performed, have been arduous and responsible. He has disbursed for the Government millions of the public money ; he has labored hard, and always to the purpose, and after giving to his country five and twenty years of hard and useful service, he has died poor, leaving a wife and six young children.

For the last six years previous to last spring, Major OGDEN was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, where he has rendered important service to the army in his capacity of Quartermaster. He was afterwards charged with the arduous duty of erecting, within

On one Sabbath in June, miles from the sound of the church going bell, there convened in one of the company rooms of the fort, some twenty whites, consisting of military officers, Indian missionaries, and those engaged in Indian trade. Their names being called, in the presence of the assembled soldiers, the company stood up, entered into church covenant, and elected Elders, who were set apart, in accordance with the solemn ordination service of the Presbyterian branch of the church.

After the close of the afternoon sermon, the Rev. Dr. WILLIAMSON administered the communion.

The church continued to worship at intervals in the Fort, till December, 1849, when it was divided, for the convenience of the members, into the church of Kaposia, there being a mission station at the Indian village of that name, and the church of Oak Grove. The Rev. GIDEON H. POND was elected the pastor of the latter, and still continues.

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three months, barracks, quarters and stables for a Regiment of troops at Fort Riley —a point about 150 miles west of Leavenworth, and which he had himself selected as a suitable place for a government post, when stationed at Fort Leavenworth. This place was not settled, and was an almost perfect wilderness. He took with him about five hundred mechanics and laborers, with tools and provisions, and commenced his labors. In a new and unsettled country, so destitute of resources, many obstacles were encountered, but just as they were being overcome, and the buildings were progressing, cholera in its most fatal and frightful form made its appearance among the men, from two to four of them dying every day. Far removed from homes and kindred, and accustomed to depend on Major OGDEN for the supply of their daily wants; they turned to him in despair for relief from the pestilence. He labored among them night and day, nursing the sick and offering consolation to the dying. At last the heavy hand of death was laid upon him, and worn out with care, watching and untiring labors, he fell a victim to the disease whose ravages he had in vain attempted to stay.

In the death of this officer the army has lost one who was an ornament to its list, his own corps has lost one of its most efficient members—one whom they appreciated and whom they delighted to praise.

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